

Community Facilities

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Community Facilities Analysis

This chapter of the *Comprehensive Plan* describes the community facilities the City of Eau Claire or other government entities have responsibility for operating within the community. The purpose of this description is to identify issues which may exist with these facilities that may have an impact on the long-term planning and development of the community. The conditions and issues pertaining to city sewer and water is found in the Public Utilities System section of this plan. The conditions and issues pertaining to city and area parks is found in the Parks, Greenway and Open Space section of this plan.

Major Issues in Community Facilities

These are the major community facilities issues identified through the Analysis of Conditions. Issues are questions to be discussed, debated and resolved during the planning process in light of the other issues noted in the Comprehensive Plan.

- **New Public Safety Facility:** Where should a new public safety facility be located to best service the growth and development of the community?
- **School-Park Concept:** Should the community continue to support a combined elementary school / neighborhood park concept?
- **Growth Relative to School Capacity:** Should the City direct growth into areas where school attendance capacity is available?
- **Future School Sites:** To what extent should the City and the School District attempt to coordinate future school site location needs based on growth management goals?
- **Retired Schools:** How should schools that are closed be reused within a neighborhood?
- **Community Center:** Should the City build a community center that includes an indoor aquatic center, gymnasiums, meeting rooms, etc., and where should it be built.
- **Convention Center:** Should the City and/or the County build a major conference or convention center, and where?

Primary Community Facilities

The primary focus of this section of the Comprehensive Plan is on city services of police, fire, cemeteries and library and on the Eau Claire School District's facilities for public education. This report will also list college and vocational school services within the city.

Police

The major issue facing police services as it pertains to facilities is the need for a new law enforcement facility by the year 2007. The City's CIP states the following as it pertains to this issue:

In 2002, \$90,000 was appropriated to fund an evaluation of a combined public safety facility. The contract with Eau Claire County for law enforcement operations expires in June 2007. The proposal may include the operations of the police department, fire department and county sheriff's department. Funding for design of the new facility has been budgeted in 2004 at \$300,000. Construction and furnishing the new facility will be financed by a bond issue in 2005. No included in this projection is the acquisition of property. After the evaluation is concluded and the location determined, a cost for the acquisition will be developed and added to the project cost. In addition, reuse of any abandoned space will be evaluated and the cost to renovate the space will be determined.

Fire

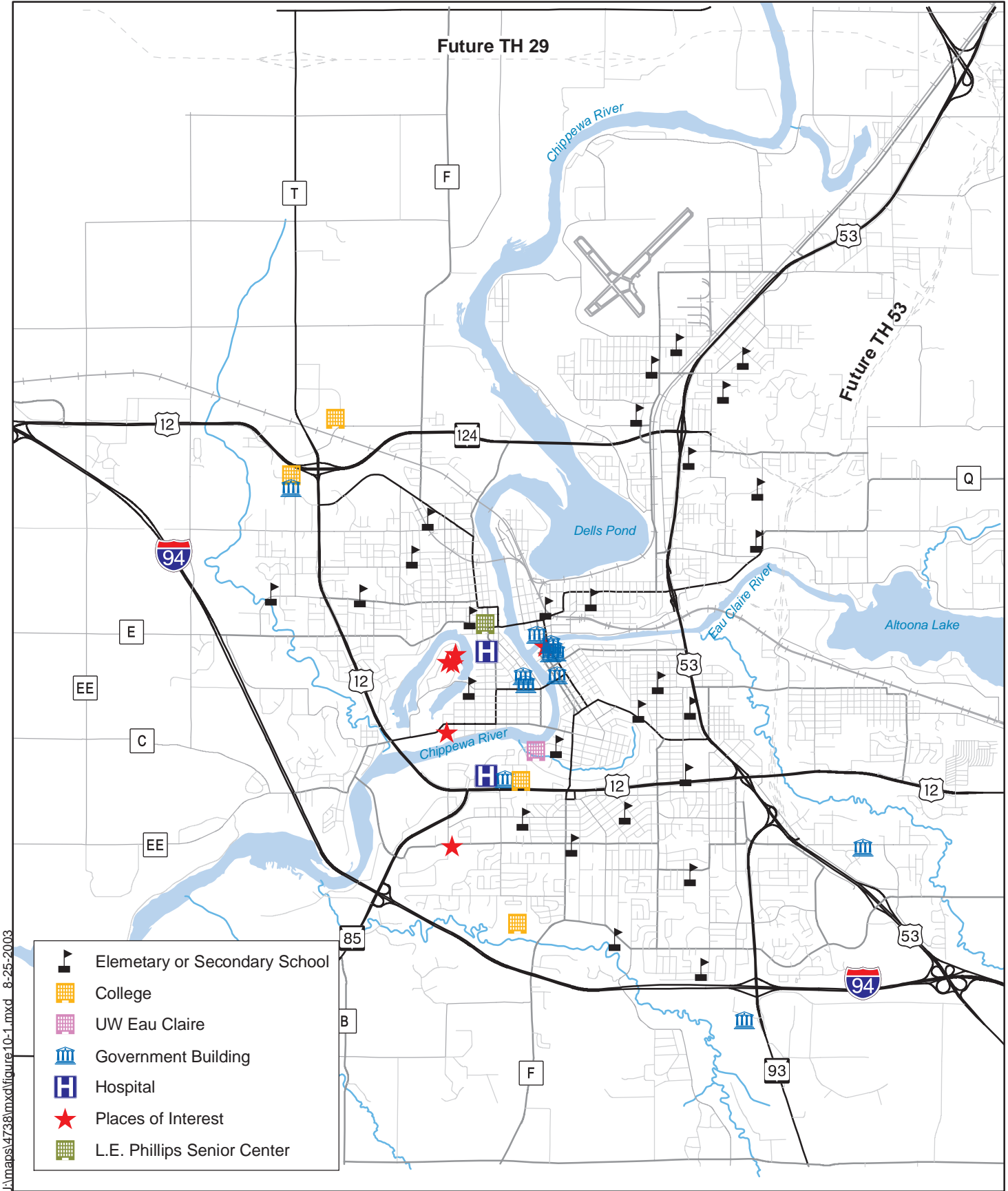
The Fire Department's last service delivery plan was completed in May of 1992. This plan recommended the combining of the Airport and Birch Street stations into a new station located near Hwy. 53 between Eddy Lane and the North Crossing. Since the completion of this plan, the City has developed a new station at Preston Road and Truax Boulevard which replaces the station at 6th and Vine Street. The location of each fire station is shown on Figure 10-1, major Community Facilities.

Cemeteries

The City presently operates two cemeteries with other private cemeteries/facilities within the community.

Forest Hill is located on the east side of Eau Claire and consists of approximately 40 acres of land and has approximately 1,600 gravesites available for sale. This cemetery has no land for future expansion, but 1,600 sites should provide for adequate space until the year 2020 unless the rate of sales changes significantly.

Lakeview is located on the west side of Eau Claire and has developed and occupied an area of approximately 45 acres. Of this acreage, approximately 200 gravesites remain open and available for sale. A new section containing 4,050 gravesites will be available in early 2005. These 4,250 sites should provide adequate space for interments until the



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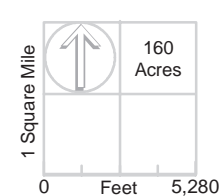


Figure 10-1

Major Community Facilities

year 2045. Approximately 20 acres of undeveloped land is available for the future expansion of Lakeview Cemetery.

Libraries

The Library recently proposed a youth service expansion and renovation project for the 2007 CIP. The project goal is to create a room that is comfortable, user-friendly and able to accommodate the changing needs of the diverse groups that we serve. 70% of the project cost of \$1,021,000 is planned to be raised through grants and gifts.

Eau Claire Schools

The location of each public school is shown on Figure 10-1. A list of the schools by type is presented below.

Elementary

Davey
Flynn
Lakeshore
Lincoln
Little Red
Locust Lane
Longfellow
Manz
Meadowview
Northwoods
Putnam Heights
Robbins
Roosevelt
Sherman

Middle School

DeLong
Northstar
South

High School

Memorial
North

New housing has a direct effect on student enrollment within each boundary of an elementary, middle school or high school enrollment area. Likewise, new school locations have a direct effect on the long-term growth of an area or the stabilization of existing neighborhoods. The coordination of development activity and school locations provides effective use of school facilities and attractive neighborhoods for new homes.

In May of 2002 a report was provided to the Board of Education from the Elementary Enrollment Management Committee. The key assumptions of this report are:

- Neighborhood school concept should be retained as much as possible.
- Children from families should attend the same school whenever possible.
- A school should be located as central as possible to the attendance areas the school as much as possible within the budget.
- Elementary school enrollments should be better balanced.
- Middle schools will continue to serve elementary students as follows:
 - Delong: Putnam Heights, Little Red, Lakeshore, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Longfellow, and Sherman
 - South: Robbins, Meadowview, Manz, Boyd, Cleghorn
 - Northstar: Davey, Locust Lane, Northwoods

- High schools will serve elementary students as follows:
 - Memorial: Robbins, Meadowview, Manz, Boyd, Cleghorn, Putnam Heights, Little Red, Lakeshore, Sherman (Sherman and Lakeshore students attend Memorial and North)
 - North: Lincoln, Roosevelt, Longfellow, Davey, Locust Lane, Northwoods, Lakeshore and Sherman (Sherman and Lakeshore students attend Memorial and North)
- The following current existing programs should be considered for space elementary schools: ESL, SAGE, Class Size Reduction, early childhood, special education and Title I. In addition, future space considerations include the possibility of Montes and/or other charter school opportunities and four-year old kindergarten.
- As attendance areas are studied, the following factors should be considered: enrollment projections, future community growth, current space availability, district budget, transportation time, and costs.

The four goals of this report are:

1. Better balance the enrollments at our elementary schools.
2. Maintain the “neighborhood school” concept.
3. Efficiently use teachers and support staff.
4. Minimize transportation needs and length of bus rides for students.

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has a Campus Physical Development Plan for the 2003-2009 time period that identifies issues and lists projects for the campus. Campus enrollment has been capped for several years; thus, most campus expansion is planned on present university property.

Chippewa Valley Technical College

Chippewa Valley Technical College has underway plans for expansion of its Health Services facility and Clairemont Avenue. An additional 300 students are projected for enrollment in 2003, resulting in parking expansion for the college. CVTC west campus is considering plans for additional fire/police training facilities. CVTC tech center is located in Gateway West Business Park.

Other Community Facilities

Solid Waste Disposal: Solid waste disposal is provided by private haulers that are licensed by the City. The landfill is owned and operated by a private company. They recently completed a study on expansion of the landfill that requires State of Wisconsin and local committee review.

Recycling: Recycling is also provided by private companies and required for many materials by county ordinance.

Telecommunications: Telecommunication facilities are provided by private companies and these tower and facility locations are regulated by City ordinance.

Power Plants: Power generating plants and transmission lines are owned and operated by private companies, which are regulated by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

Health Care: Health care facilities are a growing business within the community with many providers of various services.

Child Care: Child care facilities are provided by many private providers that are regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services.

City and County Buildings

The following are other City and County facilities with the status of their present planning considerations noted:

Eau Claire County Courthouse

The County Courthouse was last expanded in 1997 with the Huber Center addition and in 1993 with the Health and Human Resources addition. The City Center Plan and the Historic Randall Park Neighborhood Plan call for expansion of the courthouse to the east along Ann Street, away from the existing neighborhood to the west. The County has acquired land and provided parking lot expansion to the east of the courthouse consistent with these plans.

Central Maintenance Facility

The Central Maintenance Facility was built in 1987 and provides a combined location for City transit, shops and parks maintenance. The City has begun planning as part of the North River Fronts Neighborhood Plan for expansion of the area around this building to the east with the relocation of Hobart Playground to the south on the north side of Huyssen Street.

Eau Claire County Fairground

The County Fairground was developed beginning in 1995 and includes the Curling Club Center and livestock barns. Future expansion plans approved with the 1995 plans for this facility include a livestock arena and an expo center.

City Hall

City Hall is a 1916 building that it a local landmark and attached to the former library building (Carnegie funded/style) in 1979. The City Center Plan calls for a “public square” north of the facility extending to the new library along the Eau Claire River. This concept provides one option for long-term expansion of the City Hall facility. Another option which has been discussed is the relocation of the Fire station connected to City Hall with expansion into this building.

Possible New Facilities

Convention Center: The 1995 City Center Plan called for a feasibility study on the location of a multi-purpose facility or convention center at the present RCU office building site. A referendum on this study failed and the facility was not built. A 1987 study was also conducted on the feasibility of a convention center within the community. The city continues to grow and the question should be asked with this planning process as to whether the community should again raise this issue at this time.

Community Center: Some communities (particularly with long winters) are providing an indoor community center facility with an aquatic center, gymnasium and other facilities. This type of facility has been informally discussed by City officials and was raised as an issue within the 1993 Comprehensive Plan. Again the question should be asked with this planning process as to whether the community should raise this issue at this time.